

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS REGULATION

**DEPARTMENT OF  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS & ENERGY**

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DIRECTOR OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER

AND BUSINESS REGULATION **DEIRDRE K. MANNING**

COMMISSIONER

March 23, 2001

To all Massachusetts Codeholders:

Re: Proceeding by the Department of Telecommunications and Energy to conduct mandatory thousands-block number pooling trials and other number conservation measures pursuant to the authority delegated by the Federal Communications Commission, D.T.E. 01-33

- INTRODUCTION

On March 2, 2001, the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("DTE") issued an Order, D.T.E. 01-33, Vote and Order to Open Proceeding ("Order"), mandating, inter alia, the implementation of thousands-block number pooling ("pooling") on a state-wide basis in Massachusetts. The DTE ordered the implementation of pooling in the 413 NPA no later than August 1, 2001; in 617/857 no later than November 1, 2001; in 508/774 no later than December 1, 2001; in 781/339 no later than January 1, 2002; and in 978/351 no later than February 1, 2002. Pursuant to the Order, NeuStar, Inc., the DTE's designated Interim Pooling Administrator ("IPA") scheduled an Implementation Meeting for March 27, 2001, at the DTE offices in Boston, Massachusetts, to set the necessary milestones for pooling by the DTE mandated implementation dates.

On March 19, 2001, the DTE received from Verizon New England, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Massachusetts ("Verizon") a proposal for revising certain dates for implementation of pooling in Massachusetts. Verizon requested that, due to Verizon's previously existing pooling commitments in New York, pooling in the 781, 978, 508 and 617 NPAs in Massachusetts not take place until early 2002. In addition, Verizon suggested accelerating the dates for pooling in the overlays, 774, 857, 339, and 351, to May 2001, to coincide with the earliest assigned NXXs in those new NPAs. Verizon recommended that the implementation date for the 413 NPA remain the same as indicated in the DTE's March 2, 2001 Order. Also on March 19, 2001, the DTE issued a Hearing Officer Memorandum requesting comments via electronic mail on Verizon's proposed revised schedule. The DTE did not receive any comments from participants on Verizon's proposed revised schedule.

- DISCUSSION

In order to resolve any uncertainty regarding implementation dates prior to the Implementation Meeting on March 27, 2001, the DTE hereby addresses Verizon's requested changes to the pooling implementation schedule. The DTE finds that Verizon's request to delay the mandated implementation dates for pooling in the 508 and 617 NPAs is reasonable. NeuStar has announced that both the 508 and 617 NPAs have reached NXX exhaust, and the overlays for 508 and 617 will be fully implemented as of April 2, 2001; therefore, the delay in pooling in 508 and 617 will not adversely affect the life of those NPAs or the ability of carriers to obtain numbering resources to serve those areas. In addition, Verizon's suggested acceleration of the mandated implementation dates for pooling in the new overlays is also reasonable. The DTE agrees that it is more effective to begin pooling as soon as possible in the new area codes because the burden on carriers to identify and donate blocks of numbers to the pool is lessened if there are fewer assigned NXXs in an area code. Further, taking all measures possible to prevent the need for additional area codes in eastern Massachusetts is clearly in the public interest. In addition, NeuStar, as IPA, has confirmed that the proposed revisions to the implementation schedule are technically feasible. Therefore, the DTE will permit the acceleration of the mandated pooling implementation dates in the new overlays, 774, 857, 339, and 351, to May 2001, and will allow a delay in mandated pooling implementation dates in 508 and 617 to March 2002, and April 2002, respectively. The mandated implementation dates for pooling in the 413, 781, and 978 NPAs as set forth in the DTE Order of March 2, 2001, shall remain the same.

### III. CONCLUSION

Therefore, after due consideration, the revised implementation dates for pooling in Massachusetts shall be as follows:

774, 857, 339, 351 - May 1, 2001

413 - August 1, 2001

781 - January 1, 2002

978 - February 1, 2002

508 - March 1, 2002

617 - April 1, 2002

By Order of the Department,

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_

James Connelly, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_

W. Robert Keating, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_

Paul B. Vasington, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_

Eugene J. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_

Deirdre K. Manning, Commissioner